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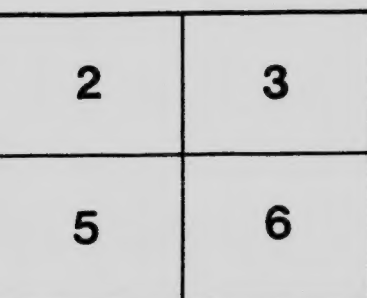
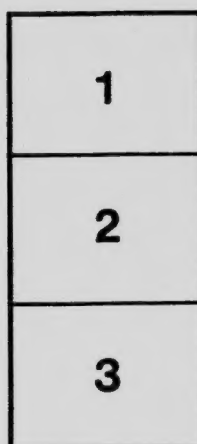
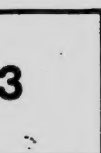
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(filing this w. agr. sept. circ. also.)

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(STATISTICS BRANCH.)Crop Situation in British Columbia, Sept.
30th, 1917.

A. B. TWEDDLE, Statistician.



LAST month figures were published showing crop areas and numbers of live stock in British Columbia as on June 15th, 1917, being the results of cards distributed among all farmers possible, of which 45 per cent. were returned duly filled out. For the purpose of obtaining information relating to crop conditions, yields, prices, etc., over 200 correspondents are reporting to the Dominion Government and nearly the same number to this Department. The compiled results from these two sets of correspondents are being exchanged by the two Governments, and where differences are shown, these are split and the result adopted and published as official.

The following statement shows the area of various crops and the preliminary estimated yield, up to September 30th, of certain crops in 1917 and final estimates for 1916. These figures are, however, subject to revision upon receipt of the Dominion estimates.

Grain-crops.	Year.	Acres.	Estimated Average Yield.	Total Yield.
			Bu.	Bu.
Fall wheat	1916	...	...	...
Fall wheat	1917	3,236	20.50	66,462
Spring wheat	1916	...	...	...
Spring wheat	1917	18,101	25.00	452,525
All wheat	1916	18,843	26.31	495,680
All wheat	1917	21,337	25.68	548,234
Oats	1916	67,065	55.98	3,753,904
Oats	1917	60,234	47.50	2,861,115
Barley	1916	4,006	36.13	144,744
Barley	1917	5,524	33.50	185,054
Rye	1916	452	22.74	10,270
Rye	1917	911	...	...
Peas	1916	1,085	29.87	32,41
Peas	1917	1,338	...	...
Beans	1916	1,800	25.82	46,711
Beans	1917	2,117	17.50	37,047
Mixed grains	1916	259	44.64	11,583
Mixed grains	1917	1,850	...	...
Buckwheat	1916	...	...	...
Buckwheat	1917	185	...	...
Corn for husking	1916	...	...	...
Corn for husking	1917	222	...	...
Other grain-crops	1916	...	...	...
Other grain-crops	1917	280	...	...

ROOT AND FODDER CROPS.

	Year.	Acres.	Estimated Yield.	Total Yield.
			Tons.	Tons.
Hay and clover	1916	122,419	1.90	234,265
Hay and clover	1917	129,254	2.32	299,860
Alfalfa	1916	5,591	2.64	14,785
Alfalfa	1917	8,681	2.10	18,230
Potatoes	1916	12,067	6.03	72,709
Potatoes	1917	15,264	4.88	74,488

PER CENT. OF ROOT AND ALFALFA CROP CONDITIONS, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1917. (The full standard being 100.)

	1916. Per Cent.	1917. Per Cent.
Potatoes	84	68
Turnips	85	77
Mangels, carrots, etc.	88	74
Sugar-beets	88	70
Corn for fodder	82	75
Alfalfa	88	72

SUMMARY OF CROP CONDITIONS.

SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1917.

Generally, crops have suffered from the cold, wet, and late spring and subsequent drought and excessive heat.

Much of the fall wheat in the Eastern sections of the Province was a failure from frost and drought, especially in the Boundary District, where the loss was as high as 75 and 80 per cent. In the Okanagan from 10 to 15 per cent. was lost. Slight frost in July and a killing frost on August 30th in the Thompson Watershed section damaged potatoes and beans.

Rain in the northern part of Vancouver Island damaged grain $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 per cent., while in some sections of the Lower Fraser River the loss to grain from unfavourable weather and disease was as high as 25 per cent.

In the Thompson Watershed section losses from drought are reported between 5 and 50 per cent. The higher losses seem to have occurred on summer fallow.

FODDER CROPS.

Hay is reported as having yielded well and was harvested in good shape generally.

In the central sections, along the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, a larger area of wild hay than usual was cut, and farmers are satisfied that there will be sufficient fodder to winter stock.

Alfalfa produced normal crops from the first cutting, but the second crop was below average where water was insufficient. Poor results from this crop in the more northern sections are reported, while East Kootenay had a good yield where irrigated. From 15 to 20 per cent. of the oats sown were cut for feed or ensilage. In past years the percentage has been about 15, but immature fields and increased silage demands have increased this percentage.

Corn will not produce a normal crop owing to the late spring and prolonged drought as well as frosts in some sections.

Potatoes in average yield per acre are expected to be below normal, but as so small a percentage of this crop had been harvested at the time of reporting, it is difficult to state how much. Early varieties on the lower land produced a fair crop, but late varieties, and especially the delayed plantings and on high land, are indicat-

ing the poorest yields. Owing to the dry weather during growth, disease was not so prevalent, but the same climatic conditions kept down the size of the tubers, so that, notwithstanding the increase in area of 20.40 per cent. over 1916, the total yield at 4.88 tons per acre, as estimated at present, will not exceed 1916 more than 2.45 per cent., while, had the yield been normal, or the average of the three years 1914-15-16 of 5.95 tons, the total yield would have been nearly 25 per cent. greater.

Just what percentage of the crop will be commercial grade is difficult to state until the main crop is being dug in earnest, but it will no doubt be much below normal in many sections.

Cutworms and grasshoppers were very bad throughout the Province and did much damage to crops in many sections.

*Department of Agriculture,
Victoria, B.C., October 18th, 1917.*

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